

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 OMB-01 AID-20 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 CIEP-03 DRC-01 /131 W
----- 125926

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2448

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6047

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OAS CU EC

SUBJECT: CUBAN SANCTIONS

REF: A. STATE 199073

B. QUITO 5142

1. AS INSTRUCTED REF A, I TOOK UP MATTER CUBAN SANCTIONS AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 12 WITH ACTING FONMIN VALDEZ. HE REITERATED ECUADOREAN POSITION AS PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AND REPORTED MOST RECENTLY IN REF B, NAMELY THAT THE SANCTIONS WERE IMPOSED BY THE MFM AND MUST BE REMOVED BY THE MFM. ECUADOR IS OPPOSED TO DEALING WITH THE ISSUE IN ANY OTHER WAY. EVEN IF OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE ABSENCE OF AN OAS DECISION RENEW RELATIONS WITH CUBA, ECUADOR WILL NOT: SUCH UNILATERAL ACTIONS WEAKEN THE OAS.

2. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, VALDEZ SAID THAT THE INITIATIVE TO HOLD THE MEETING IN QUITO HAD STARTED WITH A TELEPHONE CALL FROM COSTA RICAN FONMIN FACIO TO FONMIN LUCIO PAREDES. FACIO TOLD LUCIO PAREDES THAT QUITO WOULD BE AN IDEAL SITE AT WHICH TO HOLD SUCH A MEETING, AND INQUIRED WHETHER THE GOE WOULD ACT AS HOST. AFTER DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH THE PRESIDENT, LUCIO PAREDES INFORMED FACIO THAT THE GOE
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WAS WILLING TO HOLD THE MEETING IN QUITO PROVIDED IT

LOOKED AS IF IT WOULD BE "SUCCESSFUL". VALDEZ ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE QUESTION OF HOLDING THE MEETING IN QUITO HAD BEEN RAISED (BY A PERSON OR PERSONS UNSPECIFIED) WITH CASTRO, WHO REPLIED THAT WHILE CUBA IN ANY EVENT WOULD NOT REJOIN THE OAS, HE HAD NEVER HAD PROBLEMS WITH ECUADOR AND THOUGHT QUITO WOULD BE A GOOD SITE.

3. INsofar AS THE DATES OF THE MEETING ARE CONCERNED, VALDEZ SAID THAT THE HOTEL SITUATION IN QUITO IS SUCH THAT THE GOE COULD AGREE TO HOSTING A NOVEMBER MEETING ONLY NOVEMBER 8 - 12. IN THIS CONNECTION, VALDEZ SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY AMBASSADOR QUEVEDO THAT ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER HAD INDICATED USG FAVORED A DECEMBER MEETING.

4. VALDEZ CONTINUED THAT LUCIO PAREDES HAD TELEPHONED HIM SEPTEMBER 9 FROM BUENOS AIRES TO SAY THAT THE ARGENTINE FONMIN FELT THAT HE COULD NOT COME IF THE MEETING WERE HELD IN QUITO BECAUSE OF THE ALTITUDE. THE FONOFF HAS THEREFORE BEEN EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING A WORKING MEETING IN QUITO FOLLOWED BY THE FORMAL RATIFICATION OF THE RESULTS AT A CEREMONY IN GUAYAQUIL. THIS WOULD POSE REAL LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS FOR THE GOE AND THE OAS SECRETARIAT, AND SEC GEN GALO PLAZA, WHO IS HERE ATTENDING THE FIRST SUBREGIONAL ANDEAN SEMINAR ON DISASTER RELIEF, HAS TOLD THE FONOFF THAT HE IS AGAINST SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT.

5. FINALLY, VALDEZ STATED THAT IF THE MEETING WERE HELD AND IF A MAJORITY IS FOR LIFTING SANCTIONS, ECUADOR WOULD ALSO BE IN FAVOR. THEN, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE ADDED THAT IT CERTAINLY LOOKED LIKE THIS WOULD BE THE OUTCOME.
BREWSTER

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